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Espionage arrest puts spotlight on Soviet activities at U.N.

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NEW YORK — A Soviet employee at the United Nations is scheduled to be arraigned in Brooklyn on charges of buying U.S. military secrets from an FBI informer the Soviet thought shared his desire to "hurt the United States."

Gennadiy Fedorovich Zakharov, 39, a scientific affairs officer attached to the U.N. Center for Science and Technology for Development, faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment if convicted.

Mr. Zakharov was arrested late Saturday by federal agents in a Queens subway station after he exchanged \$1,000 for classified government documents from an FBI informant who Mr. Zakharov knew as an employee of a U.S. defense contractor, the FBI said.

Mr. Zakharov was not armed but resisted when approached by the agents, who wrestled him to the platform at the Fresh Pond Road station, said John Hogan, who heads the FBI's New York field office. The documents were immediately confiscated.

Mr. Zakharov's arrest followed by only five months a White House order that the Soviet Union reduce its U.N. staff by nearly two-thirds, charging at the time that the size of the Soviet mission "poses a threat to national security" because "Soviet U.N. missions personnel have en-

gaged in inappropriate activities... including espionage."

Western officials at the United Nations and FBI sources assert that the Soviets not only use the world body as a stage for a constant barrage of propaganda but as a major spy base anchored in its mammoth pool of Soviet citizens who work at the U.N. Secretariat.

According to the FBI, there are some 800 Soviet nationals in New York. Of these, 300 work for at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations, another 400 are employed by the U.N. Secretariat and the rest work on assignments for affiliated international agencies.

FBI agents estimate a third of these are either KGB agents or work for Soviet military intelligence, the GRU.

According to the U.N. "Blue Book," a listing of all missions and their staff, the Soviets have 109 members in their mission. But FBI sources say another 200 Soviets are not listed in the book. Still more Soviets work at the United Nations as representatives of the Ukrainian and Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republics, two integral provinces of the Soviet Union but still treated as independent states by the United Nations.

In contrast to Moscow's huge presence, the United States only has some 50 diplomats listed at the U.N. mission. Britain has 16; Canada, 14; and France, 27.

According to Arkady Shevchenko, the highest-ranking Soviet official to defect from the United Nations, Moscow treasures the world body because U.N. employees have no restrictions placed on their movements, unlike diplomats working in the mission or other outposts such as the embassy in Washington.

Speaking at a press conference, John L. Hogan, assistant director in charge of the New York FBI office, said Mr. Zakharov had "no diplomatic immunity" because he is an employee of the U.N. Secretariat. He worked as a P-4 — U.N. terminology for Professional-4 level officer — with a net take-home pay of about \$40,000 a year.

Mr. Hogan said the FBI asset involved in the arrest was a former Queens College student, in his 20s, who is a native of a Third World nation and a permanent resident alien in the United States.

"Zakharov first approached our asset over three years ago while he was attending Queens College and was majoring in computer science," Mr. Hogan said. "In a series of meetings over the last few years, during the asset's college and thereafter, Zakharov asked him [the asset] for non-classified material relating to computer technology," he said.

The asset, as he was nearing his graduation, was asked by the Soviet to find employment in "high-tech" industry, according to Mr. Hogan.

"When the asset obtained employ-

ment with a company, which was manufacturing parts for aircraft and radar, his [Zakharov's] emphasis shifted in what he wanted. He wanted documents and manuals from this company," Mr. Hogan said.

The Queens-based company was not identified, but Mr. Hogan said it was a subcontractor for Bendix Corporation and General Electric Corporation.

Mr. Zakharov and the FBI asset decided to meet, Mr. Hogan said. "There was a set time for a meet. The meet was accomplished. He [Zakharov] decided not to accept the [classified] documents at the meet site. He suggested that they go and meet at the subway station at 65th St. and Fresh Pond. They then went there under intensive FBI surveillance."

As the FBI asset handed over the documents, three FBI agents — two men and one woman — pounced on the Soviet, Mr. Hogan said. "He attempted resistance and he had to be forcibly wrestled to the ground and handcuffed," he said.

As he was being led away in handcuffs, Mr. Zakharov said the charges against him were "false allegations" and that he was an "innocent" man, Mr. Hogan said.

The Soviet Mission to the United Nations had no comments. A man answering the phone said: "Today is Sunday. There is nobody here to answer your questions. It is better you call on Monday."